

Appl. No. 10/786,431

Docket No. H1799-00201

Reply to Final Office Action of November 1, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon acceptance and entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, allowable claims 4-16 will be under active consideration in the subject patent application. Applicants note that this amendment has been filed within two (2) months of the mailing date of the Final Action. Applicants request entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection in order to place the case in better form for allowance or appeal.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has:

- (1) acknowledged Applicants amendment filed August 16, 2005;
- (2) stated that claim 17 recites a limitation for which there is insufficient antecedent basis;
- (3) rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,036,905, issued to Eninger et al.;
- (4) rejected claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of a proposed combination of U.S. Patent No. 4,561,040, issued to Eastman et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,009,382, issued to Nath; and
- (5) stated that Applicant's arguments filed on August 16, 2005, have been fully considered.

With regard to Items 1 and 5, no comment appears to be necessary.

With regard to Items 2-4, Applicants categorically disagree with the Examiner's allegation that claim 17 is anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,036,905, issued to Eninger et al. However, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this

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application, Applicant have cancelled claims 17 and claim 18 without prejudice to their right to pursue the subject matter presented by those claims in related applications. Applicants' action in this case is not intended to be an admission of any kind with regard by U.S. Patent No. 5,036,905, issued to Eninger et al., or its bearing upon the patentability of the subject matter presented in now canceled claims 17 and 18.

Applicants also categorically disagree with the Examiner's allegation that claims 20-22 are obvious in view of the proposed combination of U.S. Patent No. 4,561,040, issued to Eastman et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,009,382, issued to Nath. However, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled claims 19-22 without prejudice to their right to pursue the subject matter presented by those claims in related applications. Applicants' actions in this case are not intended to be an admission of any kind with regard to U.S. Patent No. 4,561,040, and U.S. Patent No. 4,009,382 or their bearing upon the patentability of the subject matter presented in now cancelled claims 20-22.

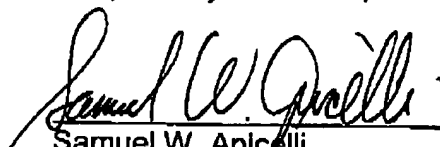
Therefor, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 4-16 will remain in the application, and continue to be allowable for all of the reasons set forth by the Examiner during the prosecution of this application. Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection Into the application, and the issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance.

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If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing
prosecution of the above-identified application, Applicants' undersigned Attorney
invite the Examiner to telephone him at 215-979-1255.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 2, 2005



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